

READING AND LIBRARY USE BY STUDENT LEADERS OF
ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE,
NORMAL, ALABAMA, 1959-1960

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN LIBRARY SERVICE

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

AUGUST, 1964

R. 1-1
P. 65

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

An excellent index of the social competence of students is the amount and quality of their reading and the extent to which they make use of the library. The hypothesis is that the amount and quality of material read by students can serve as a partial index to their level of mental and social maturity, thus accounting for their leadership or non-leadership status. It stands to reason, then, that students who are leaders of the different campus organizations read more library materials, join more organizations, and are more active in them than other students. In addition, they are more responsive to the college culture; therefore, the reading of recommended books and wise use of the library are manifestations of their social maturity.¹

Following this line of thought, then, one might conclude that leadership in campus organizations is indicative of the trust and respect which members of the respective

¹Bernard Berelson, "The Public Library, Book Reading and Political Behavior," Library Quarterly, XV (October, 1945), 298.

organizations hold for the elected individuals. Because of this respect, electors tend to emulate the leaders. It appears, therefore, that the reading habits of the leaders are influential pacesetters; hence, by determining the quantitative aspects of the materials which student leaders read, one may gain a fairly accurate representation of the maximum and optimum use of the college library and the potential influence of the leaders upon other students. It seems reasonable to assume that there is a definite relationship between a student leader's reading and library habits and his social position in college organizations.

Reading is an important leisure time activity for college students because it contributes to personal and leadership growth, it helps to make college life richer and more meaningful, and it provides pleasure and relaxation. Reading is a form of experience through which the student's horizon may be expanded and his personality may be developed; however, in colleges, voluntary or leisure reading has been repeatedly found to be meager in amount and quality. Studies have shown "that 56 per cent of the college students do no optional reading."¹

If this is acceptable, only a minority of the

¹Paul Witty, Reading and the Educative Process (Boston: Ginn, 1939), p. 28.

student population uses the college library with any degree of regularity; if this minority is a particularly important college group in terms of leadership, then the library can claim a special significance for its services. Moreover, since the library reaches the students who can influence other students, its own influence is greater than that rendered by the usual measure of college library service. One of the basic assumptions of this study is that a positive relationship exists between library use and student leadership. It is also assumed that the college library reaches the influential students on the college campus who, through the discharge of their leadership duties, guide and help to form the opinions and interests of their fellow students.

Description of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College

The Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College is located at Normal, Alabama, in the northern part of the state, four miles from the city of Huntsville, Alabama. The college, which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, is a coeducational, land-grant institution with a student body of approximately 1000 persons. It was organized in 1875 under the auspices of Dr. William Hooper Councill, an ex-slave, who was the first principal and president. When the school opened in 1875, the annual

appropriation to the college was \$1000 and the enrollment totalled 65 students.

The college attempts to provide students with an opportunity to secure a functional education in terms of social needs and is organized into the following five divisions: Arts and Sciences, Teacher Education, Home Economics, Agriculture, and Mechanic Arts.¹

Purpose and Scope

The purposes of this study are:

1. To analyze the newspaper, magazine and book reading interests and habits of the student leaders at the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College, Normal, Alabama, during the 1959-1960 school term and to determine the sources from which these materials were obtained. This study was concerned with recreational reading only.

2. To obtain information relative to the student leaders' use of the college library materials both inside and outside of the library.

3. To analyze the opinions of the students in regard to the materials and services of the library. This was done in order to discover whether or not the library was meeting

¹College Catalogue (Normal Index Series: Normal, Alabama, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1959), 29.

adequately the needs of this particular group of students.

Methodology

As the beginning step of the study, the President's approval of the project was secured. Next, a list of all the organizations functioning on the campus was obtained with the names of the officers of each organization. This list consisted of 32 organizations which were grouped by type under six categories. The category, Fraternal Organizations, included the following ten organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Pan Hellenic Council, and the Masonic Club. The category, Dormitory Councils, included the following eight organizations: Council Hall, Gymnasium Annex, Hurt Hall, Palmer Hall, Thigpen Hall, Walker Wood Hall, West Annex Dormitory Councils and the A. & M. Women's Association. Class Organizations included the usual Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior class organizations. The category, Subject Field Clubs, also with a total of four, included the Home Economics Club and the Mechanic Arts Club, New Farmers of America and the Student National Educational Association. There were three clubs

classified as Recreational Clubs; namely, the Ben Macarta Club, the Day Students Club, and Las Amigos Club. The three clubs listed under the Civic and Social Clubs category were the Student Association, the Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association (see Table 1).

TABLE 1

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLUBS AT ALABAMA
A. AND M. COLLEGE BY CATEGORY

Fraternal Organizations	10
Dormitory Councils	8
Class Organizations	4
Subject Field Clubs	4
Recreational Clubs	3
Civic and Social Clubs	3
Total	32

There were some organizations on the campus which were not included in the study because they were active for only a part of the school year. These were primarily pledge clubs to the fraternal organizations listed above.

Originally, the student leaders selected for this study were to have been the four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) of 31 student

organizations. This method normally would have yielded a total of 124 students. Another organization which provided for only two officers would have increased the number of student leaders to 126; however, because in eight cases there was duplication of major officers, the total number of students used in the study decreased to 118. Also, some duplications arose as the study developed. In order to avoid interviewing the same students more than one time, others, who held lesser positions (such as the Assistant

TABLE 2
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT
LEADERS BY POSITIONS HELD

Offices	Number of Student Leaders	Percentage
President	26	22.1
Vice-President	28	23.7
Secretary	28	23.7
Treasurer	27	23.0
Assistant Secretary	2	1.7
Chaplain	3	2.5
Parliamentarian	1	0.8
Chairmen of Committees	2	1.7
Business Manager	1	0.8
Total	118	100

Secretary, the Chaplain, the Parliamentarian, the Chairmen of Committees and the Business Manager) were asked to participate as substitutes, thereby, increasing the number of offices from four to nine, as seen in Table 2.

In addition to holding offices in some organizations, it was found that many of the student leaders participated actively in from one to five organizations. Only eight or seven per cent of the student leaders participated in only one organization. Twenty-eight participated in two organizations, 27 in three organizations, 30 in four organizations and 25 participated in five organizations (see Table 3). It is assumed that a student leader's participation

TABLE 3

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT LEADERS
BY ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS HELD

Number of Organizations	Number of Students Holding Membership	Percentage
One	8	7
Two	28	24
Three	27	23
Four	30	25
Five	25	21
Total	118	100

in a number of organizations was due largely to his popularity among his fellow students and that he tended to be more effective or active as a member, if not as an officer, in more organizations.

By sex distribution, 60 or 51 per cent of the 118 student leaders were women, and 58 or 49 per cent were men. According to grade classification, 56 or 46 per cent of the student leaders were seniors, 25 or 23 per cent were juniors, 19 or 16 per cent were sophomores, and 18 or 15 per cent were freshmen. The greatest number of organizations was concentrated at the junior and senior levels; consequently, the greatest concentration of officers was found at the junior and senior levels with 69 per cent of the officers (see Table 4). Freshmen were excluded from participating as

TABLE 4

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT LEADERS
BY EDUCATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Class	Number of Student Leaders	Percentage of Student Leaders
Freshmen	18	15
Sophomores	19	16
Juniors	25	23
Seniors	56	46
Total	118	100

officers of any organizations except their class and dormitory councils and since a freshman could be affiliated with only one dormitory council, his participation as an officer was limited to two organizations. The sophomores could and usually did participate but rarely held a major office in their Subject Field Clubs such as the Student National Educational Association, Home Economic Clubs, Mechanic Arts Clubs; their Civic and Social Clubs such as the YMCA and the YWCA; their Recreational Clubs such as the Ben Macarta Club and Las Amigos Club, or in their class or dormitory organizations. The juniors and seniors were affiliated with class and dormitory organizations and held the major offices, for the most part, in the Civic and Social, Recreational and Subject Field Clubs. In addition, they took the lead in the Student Association and the Greek-letter organizations.

According to the major aims of the college, one would normally expect that the leaders of the student body would be in the major fields of Agriculture, Mechanic Arts and Home Economics; however, the study revealed that 54 of the leaders were majoring in Teacher Education, 33 in Mechanic Arts, 12 in Arts and Science, nine in Home Economics, and 10 in Agriculture (see Table 5).

The questionnaire was the instrument used to ascertain (1) each student's reading interests and habits;

TABLE 5

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT
LEADERS BY MAJOR FIELDS

Major Fields	Number of Student Leaders	Percentage
Agriculture	10	9
Arts and Sciences	12	10
Home Economics	9	7
Mechanic Arts	33	28
Teacher Education	54	46
Total	118	100

(2) the amount of time he spent in the library; (3) the adequacy of the services obtained; and (4) the student's opinions regarding the services rendered by the library. Information obtained from the questionnaire was analyzed as to reading interests and habits in terms of sex, educational classification, major fields of study, offices held, and according to the number of organizations in which the student participated.

CHAPTER II

AN ANALYSIS OF THE READING INTERESTS AND HABITS, LIBRARY PRACTICES, AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY STUDENT LEADERS OF ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

This chapter is concerned with presenting data obtained from the questionnaires in regard to the student leaders' reading interests, habits and use of the college library. The explanation includes the library practices of student leaders relative to reading newspapers, magazines and books for recreational purposes; their use of the college library in regard to materials and services; an analysis of opinions expressed regarding materials and services of the library; and information concerning their personal ownership of books, magazines and other types of reading materials. In addition, reading and the use of the library made by student leaders were analyzed in terms of classification, sex, offices held, and according to the number of organizations in which the students participated.

Reading Interests and Habits and Library Practices

Newspapers

The student leaders were asked questions which sought

to discover the frequency of their newspaper reading, the sources from which the newspapers were obtained, the sections enjoyed most, and the newspapers that they read most. The responses of the students were divided into four groups: those that stated that they read regularly, occasionally, seldom, and never. It was found that 73 or 62 per cent of the student leaders considered themselves regular readers of the newspaper, 40 or 34 per cent were occasional readers, and five or four per cent seldom read the newspaper. No one indicated that he never read a newspaper.

Newspaper reading by sex.--The findings of the study showed that there was little difference in the frequency of

TABLE 6
NEWSPAPER READING BY SEX

Sex	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Reading Newspapers							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
Male	58	38	66	18	31	2	3	..	..
Female	60	35	58	22	37	3	5	..	..
Total	118	73	62	40	34	5	4	..	..

newspaper reading according to sex. Thirty-eight or 66 per cent of the men and 35 or 58 per cent of the women were

regular readers; 18 or 31 per cent of the men and 22 or 37 per cent of the women were occasional readers; and two or three per cent of the men and three or five per cent of the women seldom read newspapers.

Newspaper reading according to educational status.--

When the educational status of newspaper readers was considered, it was found that there was little difference in their reading of newspapers as they advanced in educational status. Except for the freshmen there was a greater percentage of regular readers at all four educational levels than there were of those reading occasionally or seldom. It was found that eight, representing 44.5 per cent of the freshmen, read regularly; eight, representing 44.5 per cent, read occasionally; and two, representing 11 per cent seldom read a newspaper. Twelve, or 63 per cent of the sophomores read regularly; six or 32 per cent read occasionally and one or five per cent read seldom. Seventeen, representing 68 per cent of the juniors read regularly; six, representing 24 per cent read occasionally and two, representing eight per cent, read seldom. Thirty-six, representing 64 per cent of the seniors read regularly; and 20 or 36 per cent, read occasionally. There were no "seldom readers" among the seniors, indicating that by the time a student reached the senior class he had formed a more consistent habit of reading

newspapers (see Table 7).

TABLE 7
NEWSPAPER READING BY EDUCATIONAL
CLASSIFICATION

Classi- fication	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Newspaper Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Freshmen	18	8	44.5	8	44.5	2	11	..	..
Sophomores	19	12	63	6	32	1	5	..	..
Juniors	25	17	68	6	24	2	8	..	..
Seniors	56	36	64	20	36	..	..	..	..
Total	118	73	62	40	34	5	4	..	..

Newspaper reading by major fields.--In terms of major fields, it was found that there were more regular readers among the students majoring in Teacher Education and Mechanic Arts (see Table 8); 36 or 67 per cent in Teacher Education and 22 or 67 per cent in Mechanic Arts. The leaders in the field of Agriculture held a relatively high percentage, having six, or 60 per cent. A higher percentage of the leaders majoring in the Arts and Sciences were occasional readers, eight or 67 per cent; the leaders majoring

in Home Economics were divided among the regular and occasional readers with five or 56 per cent and four or 44 per cent, respectively. The division of Agriculture, Mechanic Arts and Teacher Education had the smallest numbers and percentages of occasional readers, two or 20 per cent; nine or 39 per cent and 17 or 31 per cent, respectively.

TABLE 8
NEWSPAPER READING BY MAJOR FIELDS

Major Fields	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Newspaper Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
Agriculture	10	6	60	2	20	2	20	..	..
Arts and Sciences	12	4	33	8	67	..	..	..	..
Home Economics	9	5	56	4	44	..	..	..	..
Mechanic Arts	33	22	67	9	27	2	6	..	..
Teacher Education	54	36	67	17	31	1	2	..	..
Total	118	73	62	40	34	5	4	..	..

Newspaper reading by number of organizational memberships held.--Table 9 shows that the largest number of regular readers, 20 or 74 per cent and 20 or 67 per cent belonged to three and four organizations, respectively; five or 63 per

TABLE 9

NEWSPAPER READING BY NUMBER OF ORGANIZA-
TIONAL MEMBERSHIPS HELD

Number of Organi- zations	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Newspaper Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
One	8	5	63	3	37	..	..	..	..
Two	28	17	61	9	32	2	7	..	..
Three	27	20	74	6	22	1	4	..	..
Four	30	20	67	8	27	2	6	..	..
Five	25	11	44	14	56	..	..	..	..
Total	118	73	62	40	34	5	4	..	..

cent of the regular readers belonged to one organization, 17 or 61 per cent belonged to two organizations and the smallest number and percentage, 11 or 44 per cent belonged to five organizations. Of the Occasional readers, the largest number, 14 or 56 per cent, belonged to five organizations, nine or 32 per cent belonged to two organizations and three or 37 per cent belonged to one organization. The smallest percentage, six or 22 per cent and eight or 27 per cent belonged to three and four organizations, respectively. Only five leaders admitted that they seldom read newspapers; two belonged to two organizations, one was a member of three

organizations and two belonged to four organizations.

Newspaper reading by positions held.--The responses concerning newspaper reading by positions held revealed that the majority of the student leaders were regular readers. Of the Presidents analyzed, 16 or 55 per cent indicated that they were regular readers; 12 or 41 per cent were occasional

TABLE 10

NEWSPAPER READING BY POSITIONS HELD

Officers	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Newspaper Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
President	29	16	55	12	41	1	4	..	..
Vice- President	28	17	61	10	36	1	3	..	..
Secretary	26	14	54	11	42	1	4	..	..
Treasurer	26	18	69	6	23	2	8	..	..
Assistant Secretary	2	2	100	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chaplain	3	2	67	1	33	..	..	..	..
Parliamen- tarian	1	1	100	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chairmen of Committees	2	2	100	..	..	..	..	..	..
Business Manager	1	1	100	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	118	73	62	40	34	5	4	..	..

readers, and one or four per cent said that they seldom read newspapers. Among the Vice-Presidents, there was a similar trend with 17 or 61 per cent considering themselves regular readers, 10 or 36 per cent said that they were occasional readers and one acknowledged that he seldom read newspapers. Fourteen Secretaries or 54 per cent were regular readers, 11 or 42 per cent read occasionally, and one or four per cent seldom read newspapers. The numbers and percentages were higher among the Treasurers; 18 or 69 per cent of them categorized themselves as regular readers; six or 23 per cent were occasional readers, and two or eight per cent admitted that they seldom read newspapers. The officers who were considered substitutes were also regular readers with one exception, the Chaplains. Of the Chaplains, two or 67 per cent were regular readers of newspapers and one or 33 per cent read occasionally (see Table 10).

Sources used to obtain newspapers.--An investigation of the sources of the papers that the student leaders read revealed that 62 or 52 per cent were subscribers to a newspaper; 34 or 29 per cent borrowed from subscribers; and 22 or 19 per cent used the library copy (see Table 11). The smallest number of students read the library copy because the library copies of the evening newspapers were received by mail the following morning; by this time many students

had already read newspapers from another source or had heard summaries of news on the radio and so were no longer interested. Many of the students indicated that they obtained newspapers from several sources. An example was the case of a student who used the library copy of the Pittsburgh Courier but subscribed to the Birmingham News.

TABLE 11
SOURCES USED TO OBTAIN NEWSPAPERS

Sources	Number of Student Leaders	Percentage
Subscription	62	52
Borrowed from Subscribers	34	29
Library	22	19
Total	118	100

Sections of the newspaper enjoyed most.--Responses to the question, "What part of the newspaper do you read most?", revealed that 42 or 35 per cent of the student leaders enjoyed international news. Of this number, 19 or 33 per cent were men and 23 or 39 per cent were women. Editorials ranked next with 21 or 18 per cent of the student leaders. Of this number, 13 or 23 per cent, were men and eight or 13 per cent were women. The men exceeded the women

TABLE 12

SECTIONS OF NEWSPAPERS ENJOYED MOST

Section	Readers					
	Male		Female		Total	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
International News	19	33	23	39	42	35
Editorials	13	23	8	13	21	18
Sports News	17	29	2	3	19	16
Comic Strips	2	3	12	20	14	12
Local News	7	12	13	22	20	17
Radio and Television News	..	..	2	3	2	2
Total	58	49	60	51	118	100

in their preference for the sports section. Nineteen or 16 per cent read the sports; of these, 17 or 29 per cent were men and two or three per cent were women. The comics and the local news were enjoyed most by women. Two or three per cent of the men and 12 or 20 per cent of the women read the comics. Seven or 12 per cent of the men and 13 or 22 per cent of the women read the local news. Two or three per cent of the women student leaders read the radio and television sections. The newspapers mentioned most frequently by the student leaders were the Pittsburgh Courier, Huntsville Times and Birmingham Post Herald.

Magazines

The student leaders were asked questions in an effort to secure some evidence of their practices in regard to magazine reading. They were asked whether they read magazines regularly, occasionally, seldom or never. In addition, they were questioned regarding the sources from which they obtained their magazines, the type of story or article enjoyed most and the names of the magazines which they read regularly.

It was found that 75 or 63 per cent of the student leaders read magazines regularly; 39 or 34 per cent read magazines occasionally; and four or three per cent seldom read magazines. No one indicated that he never read magazines.

Magazine reading by sex.--In terms of sex, it was found that 35, or 60 per cent of the men were regular readers;

TABLE 13

MAGAZINE READING BY SEX

Sex	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Magazine Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
Male	58	35	60	19	33	4	7	..	..
Female	60	40	67	20	33	..	..	..	..
Total	118	75	64	39	33	4	3	..	..

19 or 33 per cent were occasional readers; and four or seven per cent seldom read magazines. Forty, or 67 per cent of the women were regular readers; 20 or 33 per cent were occasional readers (see Table 13).

Magazine reading by educational classification.--An analysis of magazine reading in terms of educational classification showed an increase in magazine reading after the first year of college although a decrease in the percentage of regular readers occurred after the junior year. Seven or

TABLE 14

MAGAZINE READING BY EDUCATIONAL
CLASSIFICATION

Classi- fication	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Magazine Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Freshmen	18	7	39	9	50	2	11	..	..
Sophomores	19	12	63	7	37	..	..	..	..
Juniors	25	19	76	4	16	2	8	..	..
Seniors	56	37	66	19	34	..	..	..	..
Total	118	75	64	39	33	4	3	..	..

30 per cent of the freshmen were regular readers. Of the occasional readers, the freshmen constituted the largest percentage, nine or 50 per cent; seven or 37 per cent were

sophomores; four or 16 per cent were juniors, and 19 or 34 per cent were seniors. The leaders that categorized themselves as seldom readers included two members of the freshman class and two of the junior class. No one indicated that he never read magazines (see Table 14).

Magazine reading by major fields.--In an investigation of the habits of magazine readers according to their major subject matter areas, the writer found that 50 per cent or more of every division were regular readers. The largest percentage of regular readers were in the Division of Agriculture with seven, or 70 per cent, and Teacher Education with 38, representing 70 per cent. The largest percentage

TABLE 15

MAGAZINE READING BY MAJOR FIELDS

Major Fields	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Magazine Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
Agriculture	10	7	70	3	30	..	..	..	..
Arts and Sciences	12	6	50	6	50	..	..	..	..
Home Economics	9	5	55	2	22	2	23	..	..
Mechanic Arts	33	19	58	14	42	..	..	..	..
Teacher Education	54	38	70	14	26	2	4	..	..
Total	118	75	64	39	33	4	3	..	..

of occasional readers were in the Division of Arts and Sciences with six, representing 50 per cent; Mechanic Arts ranked next with 14, representing 42 per cent. Two, representing four per cent of the student leaders in Teacher Education, checked that they seldom read magazines and two, representing 23 per cent of those in Home Economics, were seldom readers (see Table 15).

Magazine reading by the number of organizational memberships held.--There was a very definite increase in regular magazine readers among the student leaders who belonged to more than one organization. The student leaders who held memberships in from two to five organizations had

TABLE 16

MAGAZINE READING BY NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS HELD

Number of Organizations	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Magazine Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
One	8	2	25	6	75	..	..	..	..
Two	28	15	54	13	46	..	..	..	..
Three	27	19	70	8	30	..	..	..	..
Four	30	20	67	6	20	4	13	..	..
Five	25	19	76	6	24	..	..	..	..
Total	118	75	64	39	33	4	3	..	..

percentages of above 50 per cent. Nineteen or 75 per cent belonged to five organizations; 20 or 67 per cent belonged to four organizations; 19 or 70 per cent belonged to three organizations; 15 or 54 per cent belonged to two organizations, while two or 24 per cent belonged to only one organization. Of the occasional magazine readers, the percentages seemed to decrease with the increase in the number of organizations to which one held membership. Six or 75 per cent of the students who belonged to one organization were occasional readers of magazines; all others were below 50 per cent. There were 13, representing 46 per cent, who held memberships in two organizations; eight, representing 30 per cent, held membership in three organizations; six, representing 20 per cent, held memberships in four organizations; and, six or 24 per cent belonged to five organizations. Only four or 13 per cent of the leaders who held membership in four organizations admitted that they seldom read magazines. No one indicated that they never read magazines (see Table 16).

Magazine reading by positions held.--Analyzing magazine reading by positions held, it was found that all major officers read magazines regularly in relatively equal proportions and seven of the nine lesser officers were regular readers of magazines. Eighteen, or 62 per cent of the Presidents were regular readers and 11 or 38 per cent were

TABLE 17

MAGAZINE READING BY POSITIONS HELD

Officers	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Magazine Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
President	29	18	62	11	38	..	..	..	..
Vice President	28	21	75	6	21	1	4	..	..
Secretary	26	16	61	10	39	..	..	..	..
Treasurer	26	13	50	10	39	3	11	..	..
Assistant Secretary	2	2	100	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chaplain	3	3	100	..	..	..	..	..	..
Parliamen- tarian	1	1	100	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chairmen of Committees	2	1	50	1	50	..	..	..	..
Business Manager	1	..	..	1	100	..	..	..	..
Total	118	75	64	39	33	4	3	..	..

occasional readers, while 16 or 61 per cent of the Secretaries were regular readers and 10 or 39 per cent were occasional readers. There were no seldom readers of magazines holding the offices of President or Secretary. Of the Vice Presidents, 21 or 75 per cent were regular readers, six or

21 per cent were occasional readers, and one or four per cent seldom read magazines. Of the major officers, the Treasurers' group held the smallest percentage of regular readers with 13 or 50 per cent and the largest number of seldom readers, three or 11 per cent. Seven of the nine substitutes were regular readers and two were occasional readers. Of the two occasional readers, one was the Chairman of a Committee and one acted in the capacity of Business Manager (see Table 17).

Preferences.--According to the responses to the question, "What type of magazine articles or stories do you like best?", articles on sports, current news and love were mentioned most frequently. The women preferred current news and love stories and the men preferred sports (see Table 18).

Fifty-three or 45 per cent of the student leaders read current news; of this number, 21 or 34 per cent were men and 32, or 53 per cent were women. Sports ranked second with 32 or 27 per cent; of this number, 24 or 42 per cent were men and eight or 14 per cent were women. Love stories ranked third with 20 or 16 per cent; three or six per cent of these were men and 17 or 28 per cent were women. Religious articles were read by men and women to a limited extent, seven or six per cent; of these persons, five or eight per cent were men and two or four per cent were women. The last

two types, humorous and farm articles, were read by six persons. Two men and one woman preferred humorous articles and three men indicated a strong interest in farm articles.

TABLE 18
TYPES OF MAGAZINE ARTICLES AND
STORIES ENJOYED MOST

Types of Articles	Readers					
	Males		Females		Total	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Current News	21	34	32	53	53	45
Sports	24	42	8	14	32	27
Love Stories	3	6	17	28	20	16
Religious	5	8	2	4	7	6
Humorous	2	4	1	1	3	3
Farm	3	6	..	..	3	3
Total	58	100	60	100	118	100

The student leaders were asked to list the magazines which they read regularly. Eleven different magazines were listed as being read regularly with Ebony, Life, Time and Look mentioned most frequently (see Table 19). Most of these magazines require very little time and effort to read: Ebony gives pictorial news of the Negro race; Life, Look and Time give digest articles of national and international affairs.

TABLE 19

TITLES OF MAGAZINES READ REGULARLY
AND THE NUMBER OF READERS

Name	Frequency
Ebony	24
Life	17
Time	15
Look	10
Good Housekeeping	8
Reader's Digest	8
Jet	7
Seventeen	6
Sports Illustrated	5
National Education Association Magazine	1
Grade Teacher	1

Sources used to obtain magazines.--The library was listed by the students as the main source of obtaining magazines. Fifty-seven or 49 per cent of the students used the library copy, 29 or 24 per cent subscribed to magazines. Others either borrowed from friends or bought occasionally at the drug store or other outlets such as newsstands and five and ten cent stores (see Table 20).

TABLE 20

SOURCES USED TO OBTAIN
MAGAZINES

Source	Number of Student Leaders	Percentage
Library	57	49
Subscription	29	24
Borrowed from Subscribers	20	17
Bought at Newsstand, et cetera	12	10
Total	118	100

Books

Book reading as well as newspaper and magazine reading was analyzed in order to determine the interests and habits of the student leaders. Questions were asked on the questionnaire to reveal information relative to the use of books in terms of sex, educational classification, major fields, number of organizational memberships held, and positions held. In addition, questions were asked in order to obtain data on the sources from which the books were obtained, the types of books read for recreational purposes, and the titles read recently.

Of the 118 student leaders interviewed, it was found that only 22 or 19 per cent were regular readers whereas

67 or 57 per cent were occasional readers, and 29 or 24 per cent seldom read books. No one indicated that he never read a book.

Book reading by sex.--When book reading was analyzed by sex, the writer found that the largest percentage of regular readers were women with 13 or 22 per cent, and the largest percentage of seldom readers were men with 16 or 27 per cent. The greatest number of student leaders who read books was concentrated at the occasional level where there were 33 men and 34 women with percentages of 57 and

TABLE 21

BOOK READING BY SEX

Sex	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Book Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Male	58	9	16	33	57	16	29	..	..
Female	60	13	22	34	56	13	22	..	..
Total	118	22	19	67	57	29	24	..	..

56 respectively. Of the men, nine or 16 per cent were regular readers while 16 or 27 per cent seldom read books. Of the women, the numbers and percentages were equal for regular and seldom readers, both being 13 in number (see Table 21).

Book reading by educational classification.--In terms of educational classification it was found that there was an increase in regular book reading as the classification increased; that is, two, or six per cent of the regular readers were freshmen, two or 10 per cent were sophomores, five or 20 per cent were juniors and 13 or 23 per cent were seniors. Of the four classes, the greatest percentage and number seemed to be concentrated at the occasional level, except in the freshman class, where nine or 50 per cent seldom read books (see Table 22).

TABLE 22
BOOK READING BY EDUCATIONAL
CLASSIFICATION

Classi- fication	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Book Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Freshman	18	2	11	7	39	9	50	..	..
Sophomore	19	2	10	14	74	3	16	..	..
Junior	25	5	20	12	48	8	32	..	..
Senior	56	13	23	34	61	9	16	..	..
Total	118	22	19	67	57	29	24	..	..

Book reading by major fields.--When book reading was considered in relationship to major fields, it was found that

students in all fields read books to a very limited degree. The percentages of the occasional readers were above 50 per cent in only three major fields; six or 60 per cent in the field of Agriculture, 20 or 61 per cent in the field of Mechanic Arts and 33 or 61 per cent in the field of Teacher Education. All other percentages among the regular, occasional and seldom readers remained in the 20 and 30 percentages and below, except in the field of Home Economics which had four or 45 per cent occasional readers (see Table 23).

TABLE 23
BOOK READING BY MAJOR FIELDS

Major Fields	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Book Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
Agriculture	10	3	30	6	60	1	10	..	..
Arts and Sciences	12	4	33	4	33	4	33	..	..
Home Economics	9	3	33	4	45	2	22	..	..
Mechanic Arts	33	3	9	20	61	10	30	..	..
Teacher Education	54	9	17	33	61	12	22	..	..
Total	118	22	19	67	57	29	24	..	..

Book reading by number of organizational memberships

held.--An analysis of the frequency of book reading in relationship to the number of organizational affiliations revealed that regular reading was not influenced to a significant degree by organizational memberships. Two students or 25 per cent belonged to one organization, two or seven per cent belonged to two organizations, six or 22 per cent belonged to three organizations, eight or 27 per cent belonged to four organizations and four or 16 per cent held membership in five different organizations. Of the 67 or 57 per cent of the respondents, who indicated that they read occasionally, two or 25 per cent held membership in one organization; 17 or 61 per cent in two organizations, 14 or 52 per cent in three organizations; 17 or 57 per cent in four organizations; and 17 or 68 per cent in five organizations. Of the 29 or 24 per cent of the respondents reporting that they seldom read books, four or 50 per cent held membership in one organization, nine or 32 per cent in two, seven or 26 per cent in three, five or 16 per cent in four and four or 16 per cent in five different organizations. Table 24 reveals that the smallest number of students who read regularly or occasionally were affiliated with only one organization. Whereas 17, the largest number of book readers, were affiliated with two, four and five organizations although

they read only occasionally (see Table 24).

TABLE 24

BOOK READING BY NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS HELD

Number of Organizations	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Book Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent	Num-ber	Per Cent
One	8	2	25	2	25	4	50	..	..
Two	28	2	7	17	61	9	32	..	..
Three	27	6	22	14	52	7	26	..	..
Four	30	8	27	17	57	5	16	..	..
Five	25	4	16	17	68	4	16	..	..
Total	118	22	19	67	57	29	24	..	..

Book reading by positions held.--When book reading was considered by positions held the survey revealed that the practice of reading books regularly was influenced only slightly by the position held. Of the 22 regular book readers six held positions as Presidents of organizations, four held positions as Vice-Presidents, four as Secretaries, four as Treasurers, two as Assistant Secretaries and two as Chaplains. None of the Parliamentarians, Chairmen of Committees or Business Managers were numbered among the regular readers of books. Most of the officers read books only

TABLE 25

BOOK READING BY POSITIONS HELD

Officers	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency of Book Reading							
		Regularly		Occasionally		Seldom		Never	
		Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
President	29	6	20	17	59	6	21	..	..
Vice- President	28	4	14	18	64	6	22	..	..
Secretary	26	4	15	13	50	9	35	..	..
Treasurer	26	4	15	14	54	8	31	..	..
Assistant Secretary	2	2	100	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chaplain	3	2	67	1	33	..	..	..	..
Parliamen- tarian	1	..	..	1	100	..	..	..	..
Chairman of Committee	2	..	..	2	100	..	..	..	..
Business Manager	1	..	..	1	100	..	..	..	..
Total	118	22	19	67	57	29	24	..	..

occasionally; 17 of the occasional readers held offices as Presidents, 18 as Vice-Presidents, 13 were Secretaries, 14 were Treasurers. None of the two Assistant Secretaries stated that they read books occasionally since they were both regular book readers; one Chaplain, one Parliamentarian,

two Chairmen of Committees, and one Business Manager did read books occasionally. All the 29 students who rarely read books held major offices as Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers.

It is significant that the survey revealed that the majority of the major officers read books regularly or occasionally. Seventeen Presidents were occasional book readers. When added to the six who were regular readers, 23 or 79 per cent of the Presidents read books. Of the 28 Vice-Presidents, 18 were occasional book readers and there were four regular readers making a total of 22 or 78 per cent who read books. Thirteen of the 26 Secretaries were occasional book readers while four were regular readers which gives a total of 17 or 65 per cent of the Secretaries who read books. Fourteen of the Treasurers read books occasionally. When added to the four who were regular readers, a total of 18, or 69 per cent, of the Treasurers read books. Further analysis of Table 25 revealed that of the nine substitutes all were either regular or occasional readers. With the exception of the two Assistant Secretaries and two of the three Chaplains who read books regularly, all of the other substitutes were occasional readers.

To further illustrate the relationship between book reading habits and positions of leadership held, Table 26 shows that a total of 89 students read either regularly or occasionally. Also, the remaining 29 students did read books

TABLE 26

SUMMARY TABLE OF BOOK READERS
BY POSITIONS HELD

Positions	Number of Student Leaders	Frequency		Total	
		Regularly	Occasionally	Num-ber	Per Cent
President	29	6	17	23	26
Vice-President	28	4	18	22	26
Secretary	26	4	13	17	19
Treasurer	26	4	14	18	19
Assistant Secretary	2	2	..	2	..
Chaplain	3	2	1	3	..
Parliamentarian	1	..	1	1	..
Chairman of Committee	2	..	2	2	..
Business Manager	1	..	1	1	..
Total	118	22	67	89	90

even if rarely. None of the office holders could be classified as non-book readers. The major offices represented the greatest percentage of book readers. For example, 23 of the Presidents, 22 of the Vice-Presidents, 17 of the Secretaries and 18 of the Treasurers together represented 90 per cent of the student leaders who either read regularly or occasionally and these 80 persons represented approximately 68 per cent of all of the student leaders in the college (see Table 26).

Types of books read for recreational purposes.--The question regarding what types of books were read most frequently drew interesting responses. Books on biography were read more frequently by the men, 15 or 26 per cent as compared to one or two per cent by the women; and historical novels and mysteries were named more frequently by the women, 11 or 19 per cent and 11 or 18 per cent as compared to seven or 12 per cent and five or nine per cent by the men, respectively. Books on detective and love stories, parliamentary procedures, personal improvement and homemaking were also listed (see Table 27). It is interesting to note that science fiction, which should be closely related to the field of science, drew only one vote from each sex.

An effort was made to find out what non-required books the student leaders had read recently. Of the 118 student leaders, 27 had read one book recently; five students

TABLE 27

TYPES OF BOOKS READ FOR
RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

Types of Books	Males		Females		Total	
	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent	Num- ber	Per Cent
Mystery	9	16	11	18	20	17
Historical novels	7	12	11	19	18	15
Biography	15	26	1	2	16	14
Detective	5	9	8	13	13	11
Personal improvement	6	10	6	10	12	10
Parliamentary procedure	6	10	5	8	11	9
Love	4	7	5	9	9	8
Homemaking	..	..	8	13	8	7
Travel	2	3	2	3	4	3
Books on leadership	3	5	2	3	5	4
Science fiction	1	2	1	2	2	2
Total	58	100	60	100	118	100

listed three books read recently, and three students listed two books. The titles and the number of readers were:

Stride Toward Freedom by Rev. M. L. King, Jr. with eight readers, Black Bourgeoise by E. Franklin Frazier with six readers, and The Catcher in the Rye by Jerome D. Salinger with three readers. White Man, Listen by Richard Wright,

Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington, Benton's Row and Bride of Liberty by Frank Yerby, The Mature Mind by Harry A. Overstreet, Famous American Negroes and The Big Sea by Langston Hughes, Chariot in the Sky by Arna Bontemps, Blackways of Kent by Hylan Lewis, Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell, Not As A Stranger by Morton Thompson, Raintree Country by Ross Lockridge, Moby Dick by Herman Melville and An American Dilemma by Gunnar Myrdal had one reader each.

Sources used to obtain books.--An investigation of the sources used to obtain the books that the student leaders read revealed that the main sources were the library and the

TABLE 28

SOURCES USED TO OBTAIN BOOKS

Sources	Number of Student Leaders	Percentage
Borrowed from Others	19	16
Bought at Stores, Newsstands, <u>et cetera</u>	27	23
Library	54	46
Bookclubs	18	15
Total	118	100

newsstands where the students purchased novels. Fifty-four or 46 per cent obtained their books from the library and 27

or 23 per cent obtained their books by purchasing them in pocketbook editions from the newsstands; 19 or 16 per cent held memberships in book clubs and 18 or 15 per cent borrowed their books from someone who was affiliated with a book club or bought his books at the newsstands (Table 28).

Library Use

The student leaders were asked to indicate the frequency with which they visited the library, and where the library materials were used. An analysis of the question, "How often do you visit the library?", revealed that 75, or 63 per cent, visited regularly; 38, or 33 per cent visited occasionally and only five or four per cent seldom visited the library. No one indicated that he never went to the library.

Answers to the question, "Where were the library materials used?", revealed that more students used books both inside and outside the library than only inside or outside. Of the 118 questionnaires returned, 69 or 59 per cent expressed a need to use materials inside and outside the library, while 32 or 27 per cent expressed a need to use the materials inside only. Seventeen, or 14 per cent, reported a need to use materials outside the library only.

①

Opinions and Attitudes Regarding the
Library as Expressed by the
Student Leaders

Materials

When asked whether the books or magazines wanted were obtained, it was found that 75 or 64 per cent of the group obtained the books or magazines desired; 22 or 19 per cent obtained them only part of the time and 21 or 17 per cent never obtained the materials needed from the library.

Another part of this question revealed the reasons why the student leaders never obtained the materials they wanted. Ten checked that the desired materials were out (in circulation), five said that the library did not own the materials that they wanted, and six said that the materials did not meet the needs for which they were requested. There was one other item listed on the questionnaire, "Could not understand the arrangement", which no one checked.

Table 29 shows the materials which the student leaders felt that the library needs to include in its holdings. From the questionnaires of 118 student leaders, there were 158 responses given; 92 gave only one answer, 45 gave two, and 21 gave three answers. Of the 158 responses, 88 of those listed were concerned with current materials in the social sciences particularly in population, statistics (local), money and banking and on segregation and civil rights.

Thirty-seven of the suggestions indicated a need for teaching materials such as textbooks for high schools in preparing lesson plans, and various kinds of tests for the elementary and secondary levels. Fifteen students desired more material on sex; nine on parliamentary procedures; six on foreign languages such as supplementary reading materials; and three on literary criticism (see Table 29).

TABLE 29

MATERIALS NEEDED IN THE LIBRARY'S
HOLDINGS

Materials Needed	Number
Current materials in the Social Sciences (population, statistics - state and local, money and banking, segregation and civil rights)	88
Teaching materials (preparation of lesson plans and tests for the elementary and secondary levels)	37
Sex	15
Parliamentary procedures	9
Foreign languages (supplementary readings).	6
Literary criticism	3

The tabulation of the opinions expressed by the student leaders regarding materials revealed that five thought quite highly of the library materials and checked "very good"; 84 checked "good"; 24 checked "fair" and five of the student

leaders checked "poor."

TABLE 30
OPINIONS OF LIBRARY MATERIALS
BY POSITIONS HELD

Officers	Number of Student Leaders	Opinions of Library Materials			
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
President	29	2	23	3	1
Vice- President	28	1	20	7	..
Secretary	26	..	21	5	..
Treasurer	26	1	18	4	3
Assistant Secretary	2	..	1	1	..
Chaplain	3	1	..	2	..
Parliamen- tarian	1	..	..	1	..
Chairman of Committee	2	..	1	1	..
Business Manager	1	..	..	..	1
Total	118	5	84	24	5

Among the major officers who considered the materials to be very good, there were three Presidents, one Vice-President, and one Treasurer; of those who checked "good," there were 23 Presidents, 20 Vice-Presidents, 21 Secretaries, and 18 Treasurers. When these were combined there were 26

Presidents, 21 Vice-Presidents, 21 Secretaries and 19 Treasurers who held favorable opinions of the library materials. In contrast to the student leaders with the favorable opinions, there were four Presidents, seven Vice-Presidents, five Secretaries and seven Treasurers who thought that the library holdings were below standard (see Table 30).

Services

When asked whether the desired information was obtained, it was found that 59 or 50 per cent did obtain the information requested; 45 or 39 per cent obtained some of the desired information and 12 or 11 per cent stated that they never obtained the information requested. Another part of the question was, "If not, why?" and of the 12 persons who checked "never," nine indicated the "the assistant found, but information inadequate" and three reported that the assistant could not answer the question.

Analysis revealed that 101 or 86 per cent indicated that they asked the librarian for assistance and 17 or 15 per cent gave a negative answer to that question. Three checked "yes" to the question concerning difficulty in using the card catalog and 115 or 97 per cent indicated that they felt that they could use the card catalog efficiently. Ten persons wrote in "other reasons" (see Appendix A) as to why

TABLE 31

OPINIONS OF LIBRARY SERVICES
BY POSITIONS HELD

Officers	Number of Student Leaders	Opinions of Library Services			
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
President	29	3	23	3	..
Vice- President	28	2	20	5	1
Secretaries	26	3	19	4	..
Treasurer	26	1	20	4	1
Assistant Secretary	2	1	1	..	..
Chaplain	3	..	2	1	..
Parliamen- tarian	1	..	1	..	..
Chairman of Committee	2	..	1	1	..
Business Manager	1	..	..	1	..
Total	118	10	87	19	2

they sometimes had difficulty or to indicate their unwillingness to use the card catalog often. The reasons given were: the card catalog trays were always out-of-order, a tray was missing or they looked in the wrong tray for the information.

When analyzing the opinions regarding the services of the library, it was found that 10 felt that the services

were "very good," 87 indicated "good," 19 "fair" and two checked "poor." In other words, the students with the favorable attitudes toward the services of the library totaled 97 or 82 per cent as compared with 21 or 18 per cent who indicated that the services were "fair" or "poor."

Upon analyzing the opinions regarding the services of the library, it was found that of the major officers who checked "very good" there were three Presidents, two Vice-Presidents, three Secretaries and one Treasurer; of those who indicated "good" there were: 23 Presidents, 20 Vice-Presidents, 19 Secretaries and 20 Treasurers. There were 19 students who thought the library services were "fair" and they were: three Presidents, five Vice-Presidents, four Secretaries and four Treasurers. Only two indicated poor service and they were a Vice-President and a Treasurer.

CHAPTER III

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study has been concerned with the reading interests and habits, and library practices of the student leaders of the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College, Normal, Alabama. The study was designed to determine the extent to which sex, educational classification, major fields, number of organizational memberships held, and offices held influenced the reading interests, habits and library usage of the student leaders. In addition, the adequacy of the materials and services obtained and the students' opinions and attitudes regarding the materials and services of the library were recorded.

From the 32 campus organizations, 118 respondents were obtained due to 10 duplications of officers where no substitutes could be arranged. Originally, only the four major officers were to be included, but duplications necessitated the addition of five less responsible officers: Assistant Secretary, Chaplain, Parliamentarian, Chairmen of Committees, and Business Manager.

It was decided that data regarding regular and

occasional reading only would be significant for the purposes of this study so Table 32 was constructed to reveal the number of regular and occasional readers according to offices held and types of materials read. The major officers read the most. An analysis of the newspaper reading of the 29 Presidents surveyed, revealed that 16 were regular and 12 were occasional readers; 18 were regular and 11 were occasional magazine readers and six were regular and 17 were occasional book readers.

Among the 28 Vice-Presidents surveyed, the Table showed that 17 were regular and 10 were occasional newspaper readers; 21 were regular and six were occasional readers of magazines; and, four were regular and 18 were occasional book readers.

When the 26 Secretaries were surveyed, it was found that of newspaper reading 14 were regular and 11 occasional; of magazine reading 16 were regular and 10 were occasional and of book reading four were regular and 13 were occasional.

Analysis of the reading patterns of the 26 Treasurers revealed that 18 were regular and six were occasional readers of newspapers; 13 were regular and 10 were occasional magazine readers and four were regular and 14 were occasional book readers.

Newspapers and magazines were read more than books by

TABLE 32

REGULAR AND OCCASIONAL READING OF OFFICERS
BY TYPES OF MATERIALS READ

Offices	Total Number of Leaders	Types of Materials Read								
		Newspapers			Magazines			Books		
		Regular	Occasional	Total	Regular	Occasional	Total	Regular	Occasional	Total
President	29	16	12	28	18	11	29	6	17	23
Vice-President	28	17	10	27	21	6	27	4	18	22
Secretary	26	14	11	25	16	10	26	4	13	17
Treasurer	26	18	6	24	13	10	23	4	14	18
Assistant Secretary	2	2	..	2	2	..	2	2	..	2
Chaplain	3	2	1	3	3	..	3	2	1	3
Parliamentarian	1	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	1
Chairman of Committee	2	2	..	2	1	1	2	..	2	2
Business Manager	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	1
Total	118			113			114			89

major officers; 114 read magazines, 113 read newspapers and books had the smallest number of readers with 89.

The five following factors were revealed from the analysis of newspaper reading: (1) Sex seemed to be an important factor in determining the regularity with which the student leaders read the newspaper, since men read newspapers more regularly than women. (2) Educational classification was significant since the interest in newspaper reading seemed to increase as the student leaders progressed through the junior year and decreased slightly during the senior year. Compensating for the decrease in regular readers was the fact that there were no seniors who seldom read the newspaper. This is the basis for the assumption that a better habit of regular newspaper reading was formed as the students progressed in educational classification. (3) Major fields data were significant since students in all fields ranked high as regular readers except those majoring in the Arts and Sciences who ranked higher as occasional readers. In Arts and Sciences and Home Economics, however, no student indicated that he seldom read the newspaper. (4) The number of organizational memberships held was an important factor because the students who were active in from one to four organizations ranked high as regular readers and those who were active in five organizations ranked high both as regular and

occasional readers. All students who were active in five or-
ganizations read the newspaper at least occasionally. (5)
The Treasurers ranked first among the regular newspaper
readers, with the Vice-Presidents next, and the Presidents
and Secretaries relatively equal.

Further analysis of newspaper reading disclosed that
52 per cent of the student leaders subscribed to newspapers
and 29 per cent used the library copies. The sections of
the newspaper that were enjoyed most by the girls were inter-
national news, comics and local news; the boys enjoyed most
the editorials and next articles about sports.

The five following factors were revealed from the
analysis of magazine reading: (1) Girls read more magazines
than the boys and accounted for 67 per cent of the regular
readers. (2) Educational classification was important since
regular reading increased through the junior year although
it decreased somewhat during the senior year. (3) When con-
sidering the students by major fields, more than 50 per cent
in each subject area were regular readers of magazines.
Seventy per cent of the students in Arts and Sciences and
Teacher Education read magazines regularly. (4) The number
of organizational memberships held influenced the data since
there was an increase in the regular readers among the
leaders who were active in more than three organizations.

(5) Tabulation of the data by the specific offices held revealed that the Treasurers who had the highest percentage of newspaper readers had the lowest number of regular readers of magazines. The Vice-Presidents ranked highest as regular magazine readers, the Presidents second, and the Secretaries third.

The girls preferred current news and love stories, and the boys preferred farm articles and sports. Only 24 per cent subscribed to magazines, while 49 per cent borrowed from the subscribers and 20 per cent used the library copies.

From the analysis of book reading, these five factors were revealed: (1) Book reading was done to a relatively equal extent by both sexes. The number of frequent and infrequent female readers was equal; 15 per cent of the men were frequent readers while 29 per cent were infrequent readers. (2) Educational classification was a factor, since there was an increase in book reading as the students advanced in school. (3) Major fields concentration was not an important factor; the majority of the students in all subject areas read books only occasionally. (4) The number of organizational memberships held seemed to be important; there was a definite increase in the occasional book readers with the increase in the number of organizational memberships held. (5) The majority of the student leaders holding the most

responsible offices were occasional readers.

The types of books read most often were biography by the boys and historical novels and mysteries by the girls. Further analysis of sources revealed that 46 per cent of the student leaders used library books and 23 per cent bought their books from other outlets, such as newsstands and drug stores.

In order to illustrate the hypothesis that those student leaders who participated in more organizations were more active readers, Table 33 was constructed. It revealed

TABLE 33
PERCENTAGE OF READERS ACCORDING TO
NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH
THEY BELONGED

Types of Materials	One (8)	Two (28)	Three (27)	Four (30)	Five (25)
Newspapers	100	93	96	94	100
Magazines	100	100	100	87	100
Books	50	68	74	84	84

that all of the students who affiliated with only one organization read newspapers, all read magazines and 50 per cent read books; that 93 per cent of the students with two affiliations read newspapers, all read magazines and 68 per cent read books; that 96 per cent with three affiliations

read newspapers, all read magazines and 74 per cent read books; that 94 per cent with four affiliations read newspapers, 87 per cent read magazines and 84 per cent read books and that all with five affiliations read newspapers, all read magazines and 84 per cent read books.

There was a positive relationship between library use and student leadership. When data on all three media using regular and occasional readers were compared by major officers, it was found that 92 per cent of the Presidents read newspapers, all read magazines and 79 per cent read books. Ninety-seven per cent of the Vice-Presidents read newspapers, 96 per cent read magazines and 78 per cent read books. Ninety-six per cent of the Secretaries read newspapers, all read magazines and 65 per cent read books. Among the Treasurers 92 per cent read newspapers, 89 per cent read magazines and 69 per cent read books (see Table 34).

TABLE 34

PERCENTAGE OF READERS BY TYPES OF MATERIALS
READ, REGULARLY AND OCCASIONALLY

Types of Materials	President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Newspapers	92	97	96	92
Magazines	100	96	100	89
Books	79	78	65	69

All of the students visited the library. Sixty-three per cent of the student leaders visited regularly and 33 per cent visited occasionally making a total of 96 per cent who visited the library at least occasionally. Only four per cent rarely visited the library.

The investigation made of the students' opinions of the library resources revealed that 64 per cent of the student leaders obtained all of the materials desired and 19 per cent obtained them most of the time. When these were added, 83 per cent of the students were satisfied with the materials which they received. This seems to indicate that the library is adequately serving its clientele. The items mentioned most frequently as lacking were: current materials dealing with the social sciences, population, statistics and racial problems; teaching materials for preparing lesson plans; tests for elementary and secondary levels; and books on sex. The majority of the students felt that the library had a suitable amount and quality of materials.

Eighty-four or 71 per cent of the 118 respondents indicated that they felt that the library materials were good. When added to the five or four per cent who indicated very good, a total of 89 or 75 per cent of the student leaders had a positive attitude toward the library materials. In contrast, 24 or 21 per cent indicated "fair" and five or

four per cent indicated "poor," making a total of 29 or 25 per cent who felt that the library materials were inadequate.

It might be concluded that since the college library is adequately meeting the needs of the student leaders who were satisfied with the materials and indicated that the services of the library were adequate, the library is effectively meeting the needs of the student body as a whole at the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College.

APPENDIX

Questionnaire

1. Sex
Male ()
Female ()
2. Classification - Offices (Write in)
Freshman ()
Sophomore ()
Junior ()
Senior ()
3. Major Field:
Agriculture ()
Arts and Sciences ()
Home Economics ()
Mechanic Arts ()
Teacher Education ()
4. To what campus organization do you belong? Positions
(Write in)

Fraternal Organizations

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity	()	_____
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority	()	_____
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority	()	_____
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity	()	_____
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity	()	_____
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity	()	_____
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority	()	_____
Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society	()	_____
Pan-Hellenic Council	()	_____
Masonic Club	()	_____

Dormitory Club Councils

Councill Hall Dormitory Council	()	_____
Gymnasium Annex Dormitory Council	()	_____
Hurt Hall Dormitory Council	()	_____
Palmer Hall Dormitory Council	()	_____
Thigpen Hall Dormitory Council	()	_____
Walker Wood Hall Dormitory Council	()	_____
West Annex Dormitory Council	()	_____
A. and M. Women's Association	()	_____

Class Organizations

Freshman Class	()	_____
Sophomore Class	()	_____
Junior Class	()	_____
Senior Class	()	_____

Subject Field Clubs

Home Economics Club	()	_____
Mechanic Arts Club	()	_____
New Farmers of America	()	_____
Student National Education Association	()	_____

Recreational Clubs

Ben Macarta Club	()	_____
Day Students' Club	()	_____
Las Amigos Club	()	_____

Civic and Social Clubs

Student Council	()	_____
Young Men's Christian Association	()	_____
Young Women's Christian Association	()	_____

A. General Reading Interests and Habits

Do you do any extra-curricular or non-required reading during your spare time? Yes () No ()

If "yes", what types of materials? Please check.

Books ()	Newspapers ()
Magazines ()	Others ()

Newspapers

1. Do you read a daily paper?

Regularly ()	Seldom ()
Occasionally ()	Never ()

2. From what source do you obtain your paper?

Subscription ()	Others ()
Library Copy ()	

3. What parts of the newspaper do you usually read?

Local news	()	Comics	()
International News	()	Radio & TV section	()
Farm news	()	Sports	()
		Others	()

4. What newspapers do you read regularly?

New York Times	()	Birmingham Post Herald	()
Pittsburgh Courier	()	Birmingham News	()
Huntsville Times	()	Others	_____

Magazines

1. Do you read any magazines?

Regularly	()	Seldom	()
Occasionally	()	Never	()

2. From what source do you get magazines?

Subscription ()
 Library copy ()
 Others _____

3. Types of articles or stories enjoyed most

Sports	()	Farm	()
Love	()	Humorous	()
Current news	()	Religious	()
Sex	()	Political	()
Vocational	()	Biographical	()
Family life	()	Health-Medicine	()

4. List the magazines which you read regularly.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Books

1. Do you read any books for recreational purposes?

Regularly	()	Seldom	()
Occasionally	()	Never	()

2. From what source do you obtain your books?

Library ()
 Bookclub ()
 Other _____

3. What type of books do you read for recreational purposes?

<u>Fiction</u>	<u>Non-Fiction</u>
Mystery ()	Travel ()
Detective ()	Biography ()
Love ()	Books - Leadership ()
Historical ()	Parliamentary procedures ()
Others _____	Homemaking ()
	Personal improvement ()
	Others _____

4. List titles of books which you read recently.

_____ Can't recall () None ()

Library Use

1. How often do you visit the library?

Regularly ()	Seldom ()
Occasionally ()	Never ()

2. Where do you use the library materials?

Inside the Library ()
Outside the Library ()
Both ()

B. Opinions and Attitudes

Materials

1. Do you usually obtain the materials wanted from the library? Yes () No () Partly ()

If not, was it because:

- () a. Could not understand the arrangement of the library.
- () b. Library does not own the materials.
- () c. The book or magazine was in circulation.
- () d. The book or magazine found did not meet the need for which it was requested.
- e. Other reasons _____

2. Did you find the library lacking in certain types of materials? Yes () No ()

If yes, what types?

3. What are your opinions regarding the materials of the library?

Very good ()	Fair ()
Good ()	Poor ()

Services

1. When you consulted the library, did you obtain the information you wanted? Yes () No ()

If not, why?

- () a. The assistant could not answer the question.
() b. Other reason _____

2. Did you ever ask the Librarian for assistance?
Yes () No ()

If not, why?

3. Did you have difficulty in using the card catalog?
Yes () No ()

If you found the card catalog hard to use, why?

- () a. Did not know what to look under.
() b. Other reasons _____

4. What are your opinions regarding the services of the library?

Very good ()	Fair ()
Good ()	Poor ()

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